

# **ISSUES/DESCRIPTIONS REPORT**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009

**WSBK-TV Boston** 

WSBK-TV - Boston, MA
Quarterly Issues/Program List
CBS Corporation

January 1 through March 31, 2009

Attached are listings of broadcasts or broadcast segments, which, in the station's judgment, reflect the station's most significant programming treatment of ascertained community issues during the preceding three-month period.

#### PROGRAM INDEX

WBZ-TV News at 9PM on TV38 – WBZ-TV News at 9PM on TV38 is the market's only broadcast newscast available at 9:00 p.m. Anchored by Kate Merrill, the newscast delivers a contemporary half-hour of news filled with comprehensive coverage of local politics, community events, medical updates, and issues of importance to the community. There are also Special Projects Reports, I-Team and Curiosity: I-Team Reporters Kathy Curran and Joe Shortsleeve provide an investigative look at major institutions and events within the viewing area. Issues related to government, politics, big business, financial issues, corruption and crime are explored in-depth during the station's newscasts. Duration: range from two minutes to four minutes. Curiosity is an on-going series where we ask viewers: What intrigues you? What interests you? What confuses you? Simply put, we are curious about what our viewers are curious about.

<u>"What's in Our Community"</u> (New) – A 4-minute feature segment that airs within the 30-minute "What's in Store" program. "What's in Store" is a non-news, half hour program that highlights businesses and entrepreneurs in the region. The "What's in Our Community" piece features the outstanding work of a local charity and/or community outreach organization. Duration: 4-minutes within thirty-minute program. Air: Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m..

#### WBZ-TV News at 9PM on TV38

# **Business & Political**

- 01/01/09 A New Year's Day report on the economic outlook in 2009.
- 01/02/09 Israel threatens to launch a ground assault on Gaza.
- 01/05/09 An economy piece reporting the staggering decline in car sales in December.
- 01/07/09 Roland Burris is reported to get President Elect Obama's Senate seat.
- 01/08/09 President Elect Obama warns that DTV transition may have to be delayed due to the lack of coupons
- 01/12/09 President Bush has his final news conference.
- 01/13/09 Confirmation hearings begin for Secretary of State Nominee Hillary Clinton.
- 01/15/09 President Bush wished the country a final farewell in an address to the nation.
- 1/19/09 A report on President Elect Obama the day before his Inauguration
- 1/20/09 Inauguration day. And, Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy passes out at the Presidential luncheon and is taken to the hospital.
- 1/21/09 A report on President Obama's first day as President.
- 1/22/09 Paul Burton reports that the unemployment rate jumped 1% in a month. Also, President Obama signs executive orders to close Guantanamo Bay.
- 1/23/09 Paul Burton reports on how budget cuts are affecting local aid in Lowell.
- 1/26/09 President Obama targets emissions standards
- 1/2/09 Ron Sanders reports that House Speaker Sal Dimasi steps down amid controversy.
- 1/28/09 President Obama pushes his new stimulus plan. Also, the House defeats the bill to delay DTV transition.
- 1/29/09 Republicans rally against the President's stimulus plan.
- 2/3/09 Eileen Curran reports that the President must find a new Health and Human Services Secretary because of the Tom Daschle controversy. Also, Peg Rusconi reports that Massachusetts wants car owners who buy tires in NH to pay taxes on the purchases.

2/4/09 House votes to delay DTV transition until June, and Peg Rusconi reports that the President's stimulus plan gives new tax credit to people buying new cars.

2/10/09 Eileen Curran reports that Wall Street reacts negatively to the economic stimulus plan.

2/11/09 Congress continues to work on economic stimulus plan.

2/12/09 Kate Merrill reports that bankruptcy filings in Massachusetts are way up.

2/16/09 National automakers give government officials a report on their financial recovery plan and progress.

2/23/09 Eileen Curran reports that an actor labor dispute could affect filmmakers and industry workers here in Massachusetts. Also, the government contemplates how to keep Citigroup on its feet.

2/24/09 Eileen Curran reports that Quincy firefighters voted to hold off raises in order to save co-workers' jobs. And Kate Merrill reports on a toll hike for the Mass Turnpike.

2/25/09 Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is questioned at government finance hearings.

2/26/09 President Obama unveils a multi-trillion dollar budget proposal.

2/27/09 President Obama announces a plan to get US troops out of Iraq within 18 months.

3/2/09 Kate Merrill interviews a local economic advisor who talks about what to do with you money after the stock market plummets.

3/3/09 Kate Merrill reports that in light of Boston's budget crisis and the potential for hundreds of layoffs, Mayor Menino calls on unions to make concessions.

3/4/09 Ron Sanders reports that the FDIC is asking local banks to pay a fee to keep insurance available. Also, President Obama proposes a mortgage plan for millions of homeowners to avoid foreclosure.

3/5/09 Paula Ebben reports on business "secrets" on how to get hired in a bad economy.

3/6/09 The economy continues to worsen with market drops and jobless rate hikes. Also, Kate Merrill reports that Boston unions say "no thanks" to the Mayor and refuse to agree to wage freeze.

3/9/09 Eileen Curran reports that Time Magazine is predicting the downfall of the Boston Globe.

3/10/09 Eileen Curran reports job furloughs in Abington as workers agree to take unpaid vacation time to avoid layoffs.

3/12/09 Karen Anderson reports on the controversy over a plan to spend millions of dollars to preserve Kennedy legacy in Massachusetts by funding Kennedy Library initiatives.

3/13/09 Karen Anderson reports that House Speaker Sal Dimasi handed out dozens of raises before he left office, leaving many saying how they dare spend that extra money.

3/16/09 Eileen Curran reports on the President's economic plan to help small businesses and how college food cards are helping local businesses.

3/17/09 Peg Rusconi reports that the sister of Transportation Secretary James Aliosi earns big bucks in a state job for doing very little.

3/19/09 Eileen Curran reports on the stimulus money slated for Massachusetts and how much will go toward education in state.

3/23/09 Eileen Curran reports that the MBTA is contemplating cuts to service to save money.

3/25/09 US Postal Service could face big cuts, including no mail on Saturdays because of budget woes. Also, Paula Ebben reports that in this economy people are bartering to get stuff, instead of paying for it.

3/30/09 Eileen Curran reports that some people are abusing the unemployment benefit system in Massachusetts.

3/31/09 President Obama goes overseas to Europe for G20 summit.

### Health & Medical

01/06/09 A reports on what Scientology means, if anything, in the death of Jett Travolta.

01/13/09 A Gloucester mother creates her own fruit juice substitute for kids and is now selling it nationwide.

2/9/09 Eileen Curran reports on ARod admission to using steroids.

2/10/0 Ron Sanders reports on a Lojack locator system used to locate missing people with Alzheimer's.

2/17/09 Kate Merrill reports on a new Wellness Test to see how healthy you are.

2/18/09 Karen Anderson reports on the first child to die of Influenza this flu season.

3/3/09 Eileen Curran reports on "designer babies" and the company in California that claims it can control eye, hair color, and sex of babies. Also, Kate Merrill reports on a DNA test can supposedly predict if your child will be a good athlete.

3/6/09 Paul Burton reports on high school students in Burlington who go on a 30-hour hunger strike to raise hunger awareness.

3/11/09 Paul Burton reports that a case of Tuberculosis detected at Salem State has students worried.

3/20/09 Paul Burton reports on fifty young cancer patients who are being flown down to Red Sox spring training.

# Law/Safety & Security

01/01/09 A reports on the Aspen, Colorado bomb scare on New Year's Day.

01/08/09 A reports that MBTA police are using cameras and extra patrols to curb crime on buses.

01/09/09 A report on a Boston firefighter killed in ladder truck crash and the community's reaction to the tragedy. Also, a report on a teacher accused of raping 13-year old student.

01/12/09 A report that the Boston fire union is doing inspections on all trucks following the death of a firefighter.

1/28/09 Eileen Curran reports how a state budget proposal is affecting the city of Salem.

1/29/09 Paul Burton reports that a Raynham school is using new interactive programs to combat cyberbullying.

2/4/09 Kate Merrill reports that the FBI is looking for new clues in Cambridge regarding the Tylenol killings. Also, Eileen Curran reports on a new Google service called Latitude that allows users to know where people are using GPS & cell phones.

2/16/09 Kate Merrill reports that New Hampshire officials are considering the adoption of a one drink per hour law at bars.

2/26/09 Paul Burton reports that Stonehill College will be arming security personnel for the first time on campus.

3/11/09 Ron Sanders reports that students at the Mass Maritime Academy are learning to defend themselves against pirates.

### **Community/Culture**

01/02/09 A report that a Grafton soldier returns home after nearly a year-and-a-half in Iraq. Also, Boston residents are upset at the environmental impact, as well as the clutter, of so many Yellowbooks distributed in the city.

01/06/09 The Haverhill Boys Club finally lets girls in after more than 100 years. And, the North Shore music theatre uses performances to raise money and stay open.

01/07/09 A report on a Doll that allegedly says "Islam is the light."

01/13/09 A report on how school districts are dealing with so many snow days this winter.

0/15/09 Paul Burton reports on a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl who is the varsity goalie at Lynn English.

1/16/09 Paul Burton reports on a group of BC High kids who are going to President Obama's Inauguration. And, youngsters in Somerville perform community service to honor the Inauguration

1/21/09 Eileen Curran reports on a one-woman play aimed at teenagers about the horrors and realities of teen dating violence.

1/26/09 Karen Anderson reports on the controversy over flasks sold by the store "Icing"...a story that predominantly markets to teens.

2/2/09 Bill Shields reports on the soldier death of Specialist Matthew Pollini of Rockland.

2/5/09 Paul Burton reports on the degree of worry over potential teacher cuts in the Boston school system.

1/6/09 Paul Burton reports on Lowell's Winterfest and the funds it brings to the city.

2/11/09 Paul Burton reports on Twestival...the festival where people twitter all over the world.

2/12/09 Eileen Curran reports on complaints about religious symbols at Boston College in classrooms.

2/13/09 Paul Burton speaks to a Boston Globe writer who was one author of <u>Last Lion</u>, a book on Senator Ted Kennedy.

2/20/09 Paul Burton reports on a new Boston Globe travel show.

2/23/09 Dawn Hasbrouck reports on a Holyoke teacher accused of running off with a student.

2/24/09 Eileen Curran reports on how the Boston Home Show may help struggling home builders.

2/25/09 Paul Burton reports on the Community Support Fund helping poor families in Boston.

2/27/09 Paul Burton reports on Pink Slip Parties...the trend where workers band together after they've been let go.

3/2/09 Eileen Curran reports that a mural in a Boston neighborhood intended to call for Peace instead creates controversy.

3/13/09 Paul Burton reports on a charity basketball tournament in Sudbury for a Wayland teen athlete who died.

3/18/09 Eileen Curran reports on a woman finds hundreds of dollars and returns it all to the man who lost it.

3/24/09 Eileen Curran reports on a group who are upset over alleged leniency in the Catholic Church for giving communion to politicians who are publically pro-life.

3/31/09 Kate Merrill reports on Facebook Etiquette and the do's and don't regarding social media.

#### **Special Projects: Curious and I-Team Investigations**

2/05/09 Viewers are curious – Why do government officials accept money from lobbyists at all? WBZ-TV looked into this and found out that Massachusetts laws are quite lenient, and politicians are not acting outside of rules when taking funds...even if it may appear inappropriate to citizens.

2/18/09 Viewers are curious – Why do phone calls to the Unemployment Office take so long. WBZ found out it has to do with the highest demand in years. Be patient and persistent.

3/6/09 How safe is your school's cafeteria? I-Team's Joe Shortsleeve randomly selected 17 communities across the market, examined hundreds of pages of public health

inspections reports, revisited the schools, and found many cafeterias are in violation again and again.

3/19/09 I-Team's Kathy Curran discovered DPW in Quincy, MA are getting paid for doing very little while the city is struggling financially and having to cut community services.

3/24/09 I-Team's Kathy Curran discovers that state agency Massport is paying hundreds of thousands of dollars on employees' dry cleaning. How can an agency crying "poor mouth" looking to raise fees for services think money should be spent on dry cleaning?

### **Non-News Programming:**

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3/8/09 Angel Flight NE is "What's in Our Community." Headquartered in North Andover MA, Angel Flight serves the courageous men, women, children and their families who have an incredible will to live. Volunteer pilots fly free of charge those who turn to Angel Flight for help in getting to hospitals to receive much needed medical care.

3/15/09 The Women's Lunch Place is "What's in Our Community." For over 25 years, the Women's Lunch Place located in a church on Newbury Street has been a daytime community in Boston for poor and homeless women and their children. They are open six days a week, year-round, to offer food, friendship, and a full spectrum of advocacy and support services to each of their guests.

3/22/09 The Fishing Academy is "What's in Our Community." This month (March) marks The Fishing Academy's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and since its launch in 2004 more than 2000 youngsters have participated in programs that not only catch dinner but build character. At a time when the economy has forced an end to many school initiatives and electives, The Fishing Academy offers after school and summer outings designed to teach teamwork, discipline, respect, self-esteem, and more by participating is fishing trips across New England's great outdoors.

3/29/09 Artists for Humanity is "What's in Our Community." The Artists For Humanity (AFH) mission is to bridge economic, racial and social divisions by providing underserved youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts. AFH celebrates the talents and wonderful energy of young people by giving them handson experiences in creativity, business, teamwork, and self-governance

This Quarterly Issues/Program List was placed in the Public File on April 10, 2009 by:

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